No. 141, Original

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES STATE OF TEXAS,

Plaintiff,

v.

STATE OF NEW MEXICO and STATE OF COLORADO,

Defendants. ◆

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL MASTER

STATE OF NEW MEXICO'S RESPONSE TO THE STATE OF TEXAS'S OBJECTION AND REQUEST TO STRIKE CUMULATIVE AND/OR DUPLICATIVE WITNESS TESTIMONY AND REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF WITNESS LIST

HECTOR H. BALDERAS
New Mexico Attorney General
TANIA MAESTAS
Deputy Attorney General
CHOLLA KHOURY
Assistant Attorney General
ZACHARY E. OGAZ
Assistant Attorney General
P.O. Drawer 1508
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
505-239-4672

MARCUS J. RAEL, JR.*
LUIS ROBLES
SUSAN BARELA
Special Assistant Attorneys General
Robles Rael & Anaya
500 Marquette Ave NW #700
Albuquerque, NM 87102
marcus@roblesrael.com
505-242-2228

*Counsel of Record

October 18, 2021

New Mexico hereby responds in opposition to Texas's Objection and Request to Strike Cumulative and/or Duplicative Witness Testimony and Request for Confirmation of Witness List (October 15, 2021) ("Texas Motion"). New Mexico has respected the rights of Texas to present their case as they deem appropriate. New Mexico is confident that the evidence will vindicate and support its claims, so it has advocated for a full and complete record. Unfortunately, Texas has not taken the same approach. The Texas Motion is Texas's latest gambit to limit the evidence the Supreme Court considers. Texas's Motion should be denied for the following four reasons.

I. THE COURT REQUIRES THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FULL RECORD IN ORIGINAL ACTIONS

As the Special Master has previously acknowledged, the nature of this proceeding requires development of a complete evidentiary record. *E.g. United States v. Texas*, 339 U.S. 707, 715 (1950) (The Court, "in original actions, passing as it does on controversies between sovereigns which involve issues of high public importance, has always been liberal in allowing full development of the facts." (citations omitted); *Rhode Island v. Massachusetts*, 39 U.S. 210, 257 (1840) (Court allows full development of the record in original actions "in order to enable both parties to present their respective claims in their full strength"). In its ongoing push to limit New Mexico's case, Texas has repeatedly ignored this principle.

In practice, however, Special Masters have carefully guarded the right of the sovereign States to present their case at its full strength. For example, in *Montana v. Wyoming*, Special Master Thompson heard evidence from seven (7) different farmers from the State of Wyoming and eight (8) different farmers from the State of Montana. The farmers' testimony is critical to understanding impacts of Project operations and this practice should be applied in this case.

II. TEXAS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO LIMIT NEW MEXICO'S CASE

Disputes in the original jurisdiction present important issues impacting hundreds of thousands of people. As neighbors and sovereign States, New Mexico and Texas should respect each other's right to represent their citizens and present their case in a manner befitting of the nature and dignity of the dispute. New Mexico has respected Texas's right to select its witnesses and present its case; Texas should do the same.

III. THE TESTIMONY FROM NEW MEXICO FARMERS WILL NOT BE CUMULATIVE

This case is about the apportionment of water between two States that was accomplished through reliance on an existing Reclamation Project that was built to serve irrigation demands. Since the case focuses on irrigation and agriculture, there are numerous topics and issues on which farmers can offer valuable insights. New Mexico has no interest in presenting the same testimony from four witnesses, and it has no intention to do so. Rather, New Mexico carefully selected its witnesses to cover different issues in New Mexico such as water availability, salinity, irrigation practices, crop demands, cropping patterns, differences throughout the basin in New Mexico, historic water use in the valley, the importance of agriculture to New Mexico, the impact of the 2008 Operating Agreement on New Mexico farmers, regulation of agricultural water use in New Mexico, and other relevant issues. The four New Mexico farmers provide diversity in location, crops, and techniques that will aid in understanding the case.

As explained below, Texas does not understand the testimony the New Mexico farmers will present because it chose not to take their depositions. Texas should not be allowed to benefit from its recalcitrance. The testimony of the New Mexico farmers will not be duplicative, and the Texas Motion should be denied.

IV. TEXAS'S MOTION IS PREMATURE

Next, the Texas Motion is premature. Texas makes an assumption that the New Mexico farmer witnesses will offer identical, duplicative, or cumulative testimony based on the short summary contained in a witness list. It is not uncommon for such lists to contain similar descriptions. Typically, the Parties are generally aware of the testimony that each witness will give based on depositions taken during discovery. In this case, however, Texas chose not to depose Shayne Franzoy, Randy Garay, David Salopek, or Sally Stahmann-Solis. Because Texas has never deposed the New Mexico farmer witnesses, and it has no basis for claiming that their testimony will be duplicative or cumulative. Rather than assume from a summary description that the witnesses will be duplicative, Texas is required to listen to the testimony, and if the testimony is inappropriately cumulative, Texas can object at trial.

V. TEXAS SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO CONFER BEFORE FILING A MOTION

Finally, it would save the Special Master and the Parties significant time if Texas would pay New Mexico the simple courtesy of discussing issues prior to filing a motion. The present Motion is a good example. Had Texas simply raised the issue with New Mexico, New Mexico could have explained the intent of the testimony and the "may-call" list, and the Parties could have avoided the extra time and expense of unnecessary motions practice. Texas should be required to confer before filing future motions.

CONCLUSION

The Special Master should overrule Texas's objection and deny the request.

¹ Texas is mistaken that New Mexico has not identified the "may-call" former New Mexico State Engineers. They are identified as Tom Blaine, Tom Turney, and Scott Verhines in the very document cited in the Texas Motion: Appendix B of the State of New Mexico's Pretrial Conference Statement filed on August 25, 2021 [Dkt. 565], at item 56, page 15.

Dated: October 18, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

By: <u>/s/ Jeffrey J. Wechsler</u>

Jeffrey J. Wechsler

HECTOR H. BALDERAS
New Mexico Attorney General
TANIA MAESTAS
Deputy Attorney General
CHOLLA KHOURY
Assistant Attorney General
ZACHARY E. OGAZ
Assistant Attorney General
P.O. Drawer 1508
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
505-239-4672

JEFFREY J. WECHSLER
Special Assistant Attorney General
KALEB W. BROOKS
MONTGOMERY & ANDREWS, P.A.
325 Paseo de Peralta
Santa Fe, NM 87501
jwechsler@montand.com

JOHN B. DRAPER
Special Assistant Attorney General
CORINNE E. ATTON
DRAPER & DRAPER LLC
325 Paseo de Peralta
Santa Fe, NM 87501
john.draper@draperllc.com
505-570-4591

MARCUS J. RAEL, JR.*
LUIS ROBLES
SUSAN BARELA
Special Assistant Attorneys General
Robles Rael & Anaya
500 Marquette Ave NW #700
Albuquerque, NM 87102
marcus@roblesrael.com
505-242-2228

*Counsel of Record

BENNETT W. RALEY
LISA M. THOMPSON
MICHAEL A. KOPP
Special Assistant Attorneys General
TROUT RALEY
1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 1600
Denver, Colorado 80203
303-861-1963

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STATE OF NEW MEXICO'S CERTIFICAT	TE OF SERVICE
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This is to certify that on October 18, 2021, I caused a true and correct copy of the **STATE OF NEW MEXICO'S RESPONSE TO THE STATE OF TEXAS'S OBJECTION AND REQUEST TO STRIKE CUMULATIVE AND/OR DUPLICATIVE WITNESS TESTIMONY AND REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF WITNESS LIST** to be served by e-mail and U.S. Mail upon the Special Master and by e-mail upon all counsel of record and interested parties on the Service List, attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted this 18th day of October, 2021.

/s/ Michael A. Kopp

Michael A. Kopp Special Assistant Attorney General TROUT RALEY 1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 1600 Denver, Colorado 80203 (303) 861-1963

SPECIAL MASTER

HONORABLE MICHAEL J. MELLOY

Special Master
United States Circuit Judge
111 Seventh Avenue, S.E., Box 22
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401-2101

TXvNM141@ca8.uscourts.gov
(319) 432-6080
(service via email and U.S. Mail)

MICHAEL E. GANS

Clerk of the Court
United States Court of Appeals - Eighth Circuit
Thomas F. Eagleton United States Courthouse
111 South 10th Street, Suite 24.329
St. Louis, MO 63102

MEDIATOR

HON. OLIVER W. WANGER (USDJ RET.)owanger@wjhattorneys.comWANGER JONES HELSLEY PC(559) 233-4800 Ext. 203

265 E. River Park Circle, Suite 310 Fresno, California 93720

DEBORAH L. PELL (Paralegal)

dpell@whjattorneys.com

(202)514-2217

TXvNM141@ca8.uscourts.gov

(314) 244-2400

UNITED STATES

BRIAN H. FLETCHER* supremectbriefs@usdoj.gov

Acting Solicitor General

TODD KIM

Assistant Attorney General

EDWIN S KNEEDLER

Deputy Solicitor General

FREDERICK LIU

Assistant to the Solicitor General U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530-0001

JAMES J. DUBOIS* james.dubois@usdoj.gov

R. LEE LEININGERU.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
(303) 844-1375
lee.leininger@usdoj.gov

Environment & Natural Resources Division (303) 844-1364

999 18th Street

South Terrace – Suite 370

Denver, Colorado 80202 <u>Seth.allison@usdoj.gov</u>

SETH C. ALLISON, Paralegal (303)844-7917

JUDITH E. COLEMAN JENNIFER A. NAJJAR

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE Environment & Natural Resources Division P.O. Box 7611 Washington, D.C. 20044-7611 Judith.coleman@usdoj.gov (202) 514-3553 jennifer.najjar@usdoj.gov (202) 305-0476

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

HECTOR H. BALDERAS

New Mexico Attorney General

TANIA MAESTAS

Chief Deputy Attorney General

CHOLLA KHOURY

Assistant Attorney General

ZACHARY E. OGAZ

Assistant Attorney General STATE OF NEW MEXICO

P.O. Drawer 1508

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

 $\begin{picture}{ll} \textbf{PATRICIA SALAZAR} - Assistant \\ \end{picture} \begin{picture}{ll} \textbf{ASS} \end{picture} \begin{p$

JENNIFER VAN WIEL - Paralegal

hbalderas@nmag.gov tmaestas@nmag.gov ckhoury@nmag.gov zogaz@nmag.gov psalazar@nmag.gov jvanwiel@nmag.gov (505) 239-4672

MARCUS J. RAEL, JR.*

LUIS ROBLES SUSAN BARELA

Special Assistant Attorneys General ROBLES, RAEL & ANAYA, P.C. 500 Marquette Avenue NW, Suite 700 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

CHELSEA SANDOVAL - Paralegal PAULINE WAYLAND – Paralegal BONNIE DEWITT – Paralegal

BENNETT W. RALEY LISA M. THOMPSON MICHAEL A. KOPP

Special Assistant Attorneys General TROUT RALEY 1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 1600 Denver, Colorado 80203

JEFFREY WECHSLER

marcus@roblesrael.com luis@roblesrael.com susan@roblesrael.com chelsea@roblesrael.com pauline@roblesrael.com bonnie@roblesrael.com (505) 242-2228

braley@troutlaw.com lthompson@troutlaw.com mkopp@troutlaw.com (303) 861-1963

jwechsler@montand.com

SHELLY L. DALRYMPLE KALEB W. BROOKS

Special Assistant Attorney General **MONTGOMERY & ANDREWS**

325 Paseo De Peralta Santa Fe, NM 87501

DIANA LUNA – Paralegal

dluna@montand.com

sdalrymple@montand.com

kwbrooks@montand.com

(505) 986-2637

JOHN DRAPER john.draper@draperllc.com corinne.atton@draperllc.com **CORINNE ATTON** (505) 570-4591

Special Assistant Attorney General DRAPER & DRAPER LLC

325 Paseo De Peralta Santa Fe, NM 87501

DONNA ORMEROD – Paralegal donna.ormerod@draperllc.com

STATE OF COLORADO

PHILIP J. WEISER

Attorney General of Colorado

ERIC R. OLSON eric.olson@coag.gov

Solicitor General

LAIN LEONIAK

Acting First Assistant Attorney General

CHAD M. WALLACE* chad.wallace@coag.gov (720) 508-6281 (direct) Senior Assistant Attorney General PRESTON V. HARTMAN preston.hartman@coag.gov

Assistant Attorney General

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF LAW

Ralph Carr Judicial Center

7th Floor

1300 Broadway

Denver, CO 80203

NAN EDWARDS, Paralegal II nan.edwards@coag.gov

STATE OF TEXAS

STUART SOMACH* ANDREW M. HITCHINGS ROBERT B. HOFFMAN FRANCIS M. GOLDSBERRY II THERESA C. BARFIELD SARAH A. KLAHN **BRITTANY K. JOHNSON** RICHARD S. DEITCHMAN SOMACH SIMMONS & DUNN, PC

ssomach@somachlaw.com ahitchings@somachlaw.com rhoffman@somachlaw.com mgoldsberry@somachlaw.com tbarfield@somachlaw.com sklahn@somachlaw.com biohnson@somachlaw.com rdeitchman@somachlaw.com (916) 446-7979

(720) 508-6257 (direct)

500 Capital Mall, Suite 1000

Sacramento, CA 95814-2403

CORENE RODDER - Secretary CRYSTAL RIVERA - Secretary

YOLANDA DE LA CRUZ - Paralegal

(916) 803-4561 (cell)

crodder@somachlaw.com crivera@somachlaw.com

ydelacruz@somachlaw.com

KEN PAXTON

Attorney General of Texas

BRENT WEBSTER

First Assistant Attorney General

GRANT DORFMAN

Deputy First Assistant Attorney General

SHAWN COWLES

Deputy Attorney General for Civil Litigation

WILLIAM F. COLE

Assistant Solicitor General

BEAU CARTER

Assistant Solicitor General

PRISCILLA M. HUBENAK

Chief, Environmental Protection Division

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

OF TEXAS

P.O. Box 12548

Austin, TX 78711-2548

(512) 463-2012 (512) 457-4644 Fax

Priscilla.Hubenak@oag.texas.gov

AMICI / FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

ALBUQUERQUE BERNALILLO COUNTY WATER UTILITY AUTHORITY

JAMES C. BROCKMANN*

JAY F. STEIN

STEIN & BROCKMANN, P.A.

P.O. Box 2067

Santé Fe, New Mexico 87504

Administrative Copy

(505) 983-3880

jcbrockmann@newmexicowaterlaw.com

ifstein@newmexicowaterlaw.com

administrator@newmexicowaterlaw.com

PETER AUH
ALBUQUERQUE BERNALILLO COUNTY
WATER UTILITY AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 568

Albuquerque, NM 87103-0568

(505) 289-3092 pauh@abcwua.org

CITY OF EL PASO

DOUGLAS G. CAROOM* SUSAN M. MAXWELL **BICKERSTAFF HEATH DELGADO** ACOSTA, LLP 2711 S. MoPac Expressway Building One, Suite 300 Austin, TX 78746

(512) 472-8021 dcaroom@bickerstaff.com smaxwell@bickerstaff.com

CITY OF LAS CRUCES

JAY F. STEIN * JAMES C. BROCKMANN jcbrockmann@newmexicowaterlaw.com STEIN & BROCKMANN, P.A. P.O. Box 2067 administrator@newmexicowaterlaw.com Santé Fe, New Mexico 87504 **Administrative Copy**

ifstein@newmexicowaterlaw.com

JENNIFER VEGA-BROWN **ROBERT CABELLO**

LAW CRUCES CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE P.O. Box 20000

Las Cruces, New Mexico 88004

(575) 541-2128

(575) 636-2377

(505) 983-3880

jvega-brown@las-cruces.org rcabello@las-cruces.org

ELEPHANT BUTTE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

SAMANTHA R. BARNCASTLE* BARNCASTLE LAW FIRM, LLC 1100 South Main, Suite 20 (88005) P.O. Box 1556 Las Cruces, NM 88004 JANET CORRELL - Paralegal

janet@h2o-legal.com

(505) 848-1803 (direct)

mobrien@modrall.com

charliep@modrall.com

(575) 636-2688 (fax)

samantha@h2o-legal.com

EL PASO COUNTY WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1

MARIA O'BRIEN* SARAH M. STEVENSON MODRALL, SPERLING, ROEHL, HARRIS & SISK, PA 500 Fourth Street N.W., Suite 1000 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103-2168 CHARLIE PADILLA – Legal Assistant

sarah.stevenson@modrall.com

RENEA HICKS

LAW OFFICE OF MAX RENEA HICKS

rhicks@renea-hicks.com (512)480-8231

P.O.Box 303187

Austin, TX 78703-0504

HUDSPETH COUNTY CONSERVATION AND RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 1

ANDREW S. "DREW" MILLER*

(512) 320-5466

KEMP SMITH LLP

dmiller@kempsmith.com

919 Congress Avenue, Suite 1305

Austin, TX 78701

STATE OF KANSAS

DEREK SCHMIDT (785) 296-2215

Attorney General of Kansas

JEFFREY A. CHANAY

bryan.clark@ag.ks.gov

bryan.clark@ag.ks.gov

Chief Deputy Attorney General

TOBY CROUSE*

Solicitor General of Kansas

BRYAN C. CLARK

Assistant Solicitor General

DWIGHT R. CARSWELL

Assistant Attorney General 120 S. W. 10th Ave., 2nd Floor

Topeka, KS 66612

NEW MEXICO PECAN GROWERS

TESSA T. DAVIDSON* ttd@tessadavidson.com

DAVIDSON LAW FIRM, LLC (505) 792-3636

4206 Corrales Road P.O. Box 2240 Corrales, NM 87048

JO HARDEN - Paralegal

jo@tessadavidson.com

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

JOHN W. UTTON* (505) 699-1445

UTTON & KERY, P.A. john@uttonkery.com

P.O. Box 2386

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

General Counsel @nmsu.edu gencounsel@nmsu.edu

New Mexico State University (575) 646-2446

Hadley Hall Room 132 2850 Weddell Road

Las Cruces, NM 88003

SOUTHERN RIO GRANDE DIVERSIFIED CROP FARMERS ASSOCIATION

ARNOLD J. OLSEN* (575) 624-2463 HENNIGHAUSEN OLSEN & MCCREA, L.L.P. ajolsen@h2olawyers.com

P.O. Box 1415

Roswell, NM 88202-1415

Malina Kauai, Paralegal mkauai@h2olawyers.com

Rochelle Bartlett, Legal Assistant rbartlett@h2olawyers.com